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(b) (6)

Harbor Comments

To ☐ HarborComments

My name is (b) (6) I live in Portland, Oregon and have for the past 38 years. I've been proud to call Portland my home and have raised my family here. I kayak, swim and fish in the Willamette River and consider it a part of why I live in Portland and my playground close to home.

I am very concerned with the 'plan' that has been proposed to cleanup my river. The 'natural recovery' process proposed is far too little. Under the Superfund Law, a basic tenet of decreasing the cancer risk from polluted river sediments is to *remove* the toxic sediment from the river - which is a very common sense approach. Yet the proposed plan removes far less than would prove to be cancer reducing. Only 8% of the 2200 acres? Really? That is dismal by any standards except for those who are responsible for this mess in the first place. Why is it that the corporate side is considered more important than the people who recreate on and in the river?

One of the main goals of the cleanup must be to end the 'Fish Consumption Advisory' related to pollutants found in the Portland Harbor stretch of the Willamette River. That must apply to all people, including breast-feeding women. The EPA must provide a date by which the advisory will be lifted. While kayaking in the region, in waters with the advisory posted, there are a lot of people fishing these waters. People who don't necessarily comprehend what the advisories mean to their health. Even though the warnings are posted in several locations, they aren't everywhere. I would guess that a majority of the people I see are immigrants and need the fish they catch to feed their families.

In conclusion, I'd like to suggest that those who have liability for the PCBs, PAH, DDT and other toxic and persistent pollutants in the river sediments, must meet their community obligation to do the right thing and conduct a comprehensive and timely cleanup. It's the right thing to do. It's my river to use for food and recreation as much as it is their river to use for commerce.

Sincerely, (b) (6)

Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit, and as vital to our lives as water and good bread.

Edward Abbey